

October 24, 2007



Community Connector

A Biweekly Newsletter for SQL Server Professionals



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Dear Sandy,



Editorial - Déjà vu...

By Kathi Kellenberger

A few months ago I was cleaning out a desk drawer at work. Cleaning out desk drawers and closets is a task I mostly avoid. I would like for my life to be clutter-free, but it doesn't always work out that way. If I actually spend the time throwing away my accumulated junk, I feel pretty good afterwards. I am surprised I don't do it more often.

This particular episode of purging unneeded paper was because the IT department where I work was moving to a new floor in the building. The less to move, the better, we were told frequently. I found several folders with handwritten and printed out notes from projects I had worked on four to six years ago. The notes were mostly worthless now, and I threw the bulk of them in the recycle bin. What really struck me about them was that I was now working on a newer version of every project I had worked on back then. Some had just been completed; others were in the planning or execution stages.

In 2002, I upgraded a dozen or so servers from SQL Server 6.5 to 2000. This was in anticipation of upgrading the operating systems from NT4 to Windows 2000 Server in a few months. Remember that database upgrade wizard and the SQL Server-Switch utility? The upgrade wizard failed about half the time during those upgrades. I had to rely on scripts and DTS to get the job done.

The biggest project in the firm was an upgrade of our workstations, Office, and packaging all of our applications. I was brought in as a consultant in 2001 to help with this project and somehow ended up as the DBA ten months



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later. During 2002 and 2003, many of our enterprise systems were upgraded. In one case, our financial system was migrated from a mainframe to SQL Server 2000. I spent a lot of time figuring out how all of the data flowed throughout our systems, writing new data flows, and testing existing ones.

Now we are migrating to SQL Server 2005 and Windows 2003. We just completed upgrading our workstations and Office, and packaging software for Citrix where our applications run now. I have two SQL Server clusters in place, one in the US and one in Europe. Though I haven't had a lot to do with it, our intranet will be running on SharePoint in a month or so. The enterprise systems that have not been upgraded in the past year will be upgraded soon.

For me, at least, this round has been a lot easier. Five years ago, I just tried to understand what was in place and to get everything to work during the upgrades. Since then, I have simplified and optimized dozens of processes. I have learned a lot during the past few years. When we upgraded our HR system in 2006 and financial system this past September, hardly anyone outside the HR and Accounting departments noticed the disruptions. Sweet success!

From what I read, like me, many shops are just starting their SQL Server 2005 upgrades, yet Microsoft has announced that SQL Server 2008 will be available in a few months. I don't even try to keep up with Visual Studio anymore since there is so much to learn just about SQL Server.

I have found that history is repeating itself. The cycle of upgrades never stops. No wonder I feel like I have been here before...



Register now for SQLSaturday in Orlando!

November 10, 2007

[SQLSaturday](#) is a free one-day learning event for SQL Server professionals, loosely patterned on the well known Code Camp model and organized by the Orlando SQL Server Users Group.

Register [here](#) for this free event!

The DBA SIG Tool Shed Project Needs Your Input!

The DBA Special Interest Group is working on a Tool Shed project. Rather than the usual collection of (often dubious) scripts, our vision is that we will have a collaborative effort that will deliver open source products to the PASS DBA Community.

We need your input on what you kinds of tools you would like to see in the tool shed.

Please visit our [website](#) and complete our short survey.

Thanks!



SQLTeach!

Training you can't get any other way!

This event will be held **Nov. 26-30** in conjunction with DevTeach in Vancouver, Canada. It will offer the elements of an intimate community event while bringing together **SQL Server gurus** from around the world for three days of networking and hands-on training.

The tracks will cover the latest technologies and techniques for SQL Server 2005, .NET 3.0, Vista, ASP.NET, Software Architecture and Agile.

On November 26th Paul Nielson, William R. Vaughn and Kevin McNeish are presenting fantastic Pre-Conference workshops and November 30th Itzik Ben-Gan, Rod Paddock, Scott Bellware are presenting Post-conference

workshops.

Please visit www.sqlteach.com for more information, registration and exhibiting opportunities.

European PASS Conference 2008

April 14th - 16th, 2008

The European PASS Conference is being held in Neuss, Germany in 2008.

It is a 2 day conference with 24+ technical sessions. Two distinct tracks of pre-conference seminars are also offered.

Get a chance to deep dive into the new Microsoft SQL Server 2008 features - right after it's officially launched!

Click [here](#) for more information.

2007 PASS Summit Prize Winners

Dell Meet and Greet Giveaway Winner

- Amy Lewis, Choice Hotels - \$1000 value towards a Dell

PASSPort to Prizes Winners

- Paul Sundersingh, Southwest Corporate Federal Credit Union - Fleece Vest, compliments of **Idera**
- Anbazhagan Amsanathan, XL Global Services - Bose Quiet Comfort 3 Acoustic Headphones, compliments of **CA Inc.**
- David Zeng, Carmax Inc. - \$300 Amex Gift Certificate, compliments of **Applix Inc.**
- Gihwan Han, Microsoft Korea - Zune Media Player, compliments of **Dell**
- Jim Clark, Universal Warranty - Tom-Tom GPS System, compliments of **GoldenGate Software**
- David Baldauff, Digineer - Dundas Dashboard Bundle, compliments of **Dundas Data Visualization**
- Barbara Sampson, FM Global - Magellian GPS System, compliments of **xkoto**

- Mike Quinn, L&M Hospital - \$300 gift certificate, compliments of **Wiley Publishing**
- Ken Powers, Emerging Health IT - \$300 gift certificate, compliments of **Quest Software**
- Nimesh Shah, CIT Group - Baker GPS, compliments of **hyperBac**
- Barbara Gunion, Gaiam - Blue Ray Video Disk Player, compliments of **Ntirety**
- Marsha Elyashevich, Swagelok - Garmin GPS, compliments of **Cizer Software**
- Natasha Kentish, Magellan Health Services - Xbox360, compliments of **90 Degree Software**

Session Evaluation Prize Winners:

Prize Winners for Wednesday, September 19, 2007.

Drawing	Winner	Name	Prize
Wed 1:30 pm	1	Cliff Corder	Zune
Wed 1:30 pm	2	Steve Williams	SQL Server Standard
Wed 6:00 pm	1	Ken Dever	Zune
Wed 6:00 pm	2	Vipul Shah	SQL Server Standard

Prize Winners for Thursday, September 20, 2007

Drawing	Winner	Name	Prize
Thu 1:30 pm	1	Wayne Jiang	Zune
Thu 1:30 pm	2	Martin Labine	SQL Server Standard
Thu 6:00 pm	1	Hans-Peter-Harpeth	Zune
Thu 6:00 pm	2	Andrew Novick	SQL Server Standard

Prize Winners for Friday, September 21, 2007

Drawing	Winner	Name	Prize
Fri 1:30 pm	1	Diana Shanks	Zune
Fri 1:30 pm	2	Paul Maxfield	SQL Server Standard

PASS Exhibitor Interviews - Part 7

PASS Exhibitor Interview Questions for:
Edgewood Solutions

Tell us about the most exciting product(s) in your line-up.

You bet! We've actually got a bunch of exciting offerings this year. For instance, our **Health Check** will validate the client's overall SQL environment and correct any issues. We then share all this great knowledge and train the team regarding SQL Server development and operational best practices. Our **Performance Tuning Workshop** has the same hands-on, collaborative approach with our experts diagnosing the client's performance issues, correcting the most detrimental of the issues, sharing the corrections with the team, and then working together to correct *all* of their SQL issues. **Disaster Recovery** is an area that often gets left out of the loop, but it's so important! So Edgewood combines consulting with our software partner Neverfail. We keep it simple though: whether LAN or WAN we ensure the client's SQL Server environment stays up no matter what.

We've also decided to bring some new SQL learning tools to the community via a free newsletter called **MSSQLTips**. Its chock full of valuable technical content - relevant and immediately useful SQL tips that arrive in the member's Inbox daily. Again, we're keeping it simple!

Who are your offerings intended to help?

Everyone who works with SQL Server can benefit from our offerings. It doesn't matter what size an organization is or what industry they're in, it's SQL Server that's our focus. We work with folks that have just a few SQL Servers with no DBAs all the way up to companies with hundreds of SQL Servers and a large team. Individually though, our services really benefit DBAs and Developers because we work with SQL Server day in and day out and can leverage

a vast amount of practical experience across the industry.

What is the most significant advantage or workplace change that your product offers to its users?

There's so many advantages to having an Edgewood SQL expert on hand. You get a SQL Server environment that's optimized, scalable and high performing. You also benefit from our problem resolution abilities - bringing a little peace of mind and significant cost savings. The list goes on and on!

Many users are used to having most of their needs met by native tools. How does your product go over and above the native tool offering?

Well, because Edgewood works with SQL Server day in and day out, we see many of the same situations from client to client. Lucky for us and our clients, we're in the unique position of being able to use both services and tools (we're a value added reseller for some of the best tools in the market today) to optimize the SQL Server environment beyond the native offerings like being able to support a cluster over a WAN. Don't believe it? Stop by our booth during the show and we'll tell you how it's done!

What's your vision for these offerings? What's it going to do in the future that it doesn't do now?

We've all seen how with each new version of SQL the platform just continues to evolve. That's why we always have a finger on the latest functionalities. We incorporate them into all of our offerings so we're always providing the most robust and up-to-the-minute solution.

Where can we find out more about it?

Call us at 888-788-2444 or check out all our SQL services and tools at www.edgewoodsolutions.com. Register for the free MSSQLTips newsletter at www.mssqltips.com.

PASS Organization & Mission

PASS was founded by Microsoft and CA to provide users of SQL Server a peer network and to help build a body of expertise to help educate millions of SQL Server users around the world.

Currently, PASS is a global community for more than 25,000 SQL Server professionals. It is the first independent, user-run, not-for-profit association dedicated to providing SQL Server users around the world with the tools and knowledge to achieve unparalleled business results.

Our Mission:

- Provide a forum for SQL Server education
- Build and grow the SQL Server Community
- Facilitate member networking & provide an infrastructure to enable the exchange of information within SQL Server disciplines- DBA/Developers, BI Professionals, etc.
- Work with Microsoft to influence the direction of the SQL Server product and services
- Publish high quality technical materials including the Connector & the SQL Server Standard Magazine
- Build the largest archive of user created SQL Server and Business Intelligence reference material

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